New Social Welfare Schemes in the Country

485. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new social welfare schemes are being considered by Government in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Govt, is reviewing all the Welfare Schemes to improved the benefits reaching the target groups. Other relevant information in this regard are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Schemes for Urban Development

486. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new schemes are being considered for urban development in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) and (b) Schemes for urban development in the country will form part of the Eighth Plan, which is now only in the initial stages of formulation.

Circular Railway Between Hyderabad and Sccundcrabad

487. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a circular railway around Hyderabad-Sccunderabad cities;' and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The responsibility for providing mass transit systems in urban areas devolves on the State Government/ local bodies concerned. As such decisions in regard to the circular railway for Hyderabad-Secunderabad have to be taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government had a study done by Regional Engineering College, Warangal in regard to Hyderabad Area Transportation. In its report the Regional Engineering College Warangal made two alternative mass transit proposals of which one was Inner Circular Railway. When this was referred to the Railway Authorities by the State Government, they advised that laying of additional tracks along side existing Broad Gauge (BG) and Metre Gauge (MG) lines to form a dedicated inner circular railway as suggested in the study would not be feasible.

Loans to Farmers, Artisans and Agricultural Farmers

488. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDYJ Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give loans to farmers, artisans and agricultural labour; and

(b) if so, what are the details?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b) Short-term, medium-term and long-term loans are being given to farmers including artisans and agricultural labour through institutional agencies comprising of cooperatives, commercial banks and regional rural banks. The rate of interest on these loans is concessional. A few notable schemes are: loaning for Agriculture and allied activities under priority sector advances, loaning to weakest among the weaker sections under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme, and loaning under the Integrated Rural Development Programme to the target group below the poverty line.